

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 SP-02 USIA-06 EB-08
NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
LAB-04 SIL-01 INT-05 DOE-11 SOE-02 OES-07 DODE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 L-03 /113 W
-----116133 011536Z /46

R 311614Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8165
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, LT
SUBJECT: PRIMIN JONATHAN ON HYDROELECTRIC POWER AND AFFORESTATION/
SOIL CONSERVATION PROJECTS

REF: MASERU 0246,

1. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH THE
PRIME MINISTER (REFTEL), THE LATTER COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON TWO
ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WHICH HE REGARDS AS IMPORTANT.

A. THE FIRST IS THE LONG-DISCUSSED HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT WHICH,
HE SAID, THE CANADIANS ARE NOW STUDYING. (THIS PROJECT WAS ALSO
EMPHASIZED IN A SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH THE SENIOR PERMANENT
SECRETARY PHILIP MABATHOANA.)

B. THE SECOND PROJECT IS AN EXPANSION OF THE PRESENT SOILD
CONSERVATION EFFORT TO INCLUDE PARTICULARLY LABOR-INTENSIVE
AFFORESTATION. THIS PROJECT, PRESENTLY BEING DEVELOPED, IS
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AIMED AT GROWING TREES FOR TIMBER AS WELL AS FIREWOOD AND WOULD
HAVE THE ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVE OF PROMOTING SOIL CONSERVATION.

2. COMMENT: A HYDROELECTRIC POWER AND WATER STORAGE PROJECT
HAS BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION OFF AND ON SINCE THE EARLY SEVENTIES IN
LESOTHO. FORMERLY REFERRED TO AS THE MALIBAMATSO (RIVER) PROJECT
OR OXBOW SCHEME, SEVERAL POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE SITES ARE NOW BEING

STUDIED BY THE CANADIANS.

THE PRIMIN HAS TWICE PREVIOUSLY INFORMALLY REQUESTED US TO TAKE THE LEAD IN DEVELOPING A COUNTRY-WIDE SOIL CONSERVATION PROGRAM. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE HAS REFERRED TO THE PROJECT IN TERMS OF AFFORESTATION AND WITHOUT DIRECTLY INVITING OUR PARTICIPATION (THOUGH IT CERTAINLY WAS INFERRED). ANGLO-AMERICAN IS FINANCING A SMALL WOODLOT AFFORESTATION PROJECT (FOR FIREWOOD) WHICH HAS HAD SOME INITIAL SUCCESS. THE PRIMIN'S PROPOSAL WOULD EXPAND THIS IN SIZE AND SCOPE. END COMMENT.
STOKES

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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